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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,885	09/23/2003	Safaa H. Hashim	42498-P010US	2221
61060	7590	09/18/2008		
WINSTEAD PC P.O. BOX 50784 DALLAS, TX 75201			EXAMINER PORTER, RACHEL L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3626	
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			09/18/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/669,885

Applicant(s)

HASHIM, SAFAA H.

Examiner

RACHEL L. PORTER

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-35 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-35 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 May 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to application filed 5/27/08. Claims 4-35 are pending.

Drawings

2. The objection to the drawings are hereby withdrawn due the replacement drawings filed 5/27/08.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 4-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Surbey et al (US 2004/0186750A1).

[claim 4] Surbey et al discloses a method for facilitating communication among participants in an insurance underwriting process, comprising:

- providing a web-centric system for allowing said participants to collaborate using web clients through the Internet, said web-centric system comprising a plurality of modules, each of said modules comprising at least one tool, each of said tool comprising at least one view; and (Figure 2; par. 45-48)
- configuring tools of said web-centric system such that at least two said tools have a view in common. (par. 48, par. 97, 121-123)
- sharing, via the web-based system, the data among the at least one participant; (par. 38,42, Figure 9 collaboration engine)
- wherein the at least one participant comprises at least one user, and the web-based system is adapted to restrict the data accessible to the at least one user based on a plurality of attributes of the at least one user. (Figure 9—user authentication; 137-141)

[claims 5-6] Surbey et al discloses the method of claim 4 wherein said participants include insurance agents and insurance agencies agencies. (par. 38,42—users include various insurance brokers and insurance companies) and wherein the at least one user is selected from the group consisting of agents and case managers. (par. 38,42)

[claims 7-10] Surbey discloses he method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of applications are adapted to employ a desktop visual metaphor for accessing the plurality of modules.; wherein the plurality of modules are adapted to allow the plurality

of applications to be scalable and , wherein the plurality of modules comprises : a user profile module; a general administration module; and a business module. (par. 141-143 Figure 9)

[claims 11-12) Surbey discloses the method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of tools comprises at least one generic tool and at least one entity-specific tool and wherein the at least one generic tool is adapted to exist in more than one module with similar functionality. (par. 46 and 89)

[claim 13] Surbey discloses the method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of views comprises: a summary view; a list view; and a detail view. (figure 5)

[claim 14] Surbey discloses the method of claim 4, wherein the multi-layer, modular architecture is adapted to allow development of new applications, modules, tools, or views. (par. 36)

[claim 15] Surbey discloses the method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of attributes of the at least one user comprises: the at least one user's role in the insurance underwriting process; the at least one user's identity; and a context in which the at least one user seeks access to the data. (Figure 9, par. 41-43)

[claim 16] Surbrey discloses the method of claim 4, wherein sharing the data further comprises encrypting the data using a secure encryption technology. (Figure 9)

[claim 17] Surbey discloses The method of claim 4, wherein the web-based system is deployed on a portal hosted by a third party. (par. 54)

[claim 18-19] Surbrey discloses the method of claim 4, wherein the web-based system is deployed on a framework for the plurality of applications (Figures 8-9) and , further

comprising configuring the web-based system so that at least two modules of the plurality of modules have at least one tool of the plurality of tools in common. (Figures 8-9; par. 46 and 89)

[claims 4-35] The limitations of claims 20-35 are address by the rejections of claims 4-19.

System claims 20-35 repeat the subject matter of claims 4-19 as a set of elements rather than a series of steps. As the underlying process has been shown to be fully disclosed by the teachings of Surbey in the above rejection of claims 4-19, it is readily apparent that the Surbey reference includes a system to perform the recited functions. As such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons provided in the rejection of claim 4-19, and incorporated herein.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 4-35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RACHEL L. PORTER whose telephone number is (571)272-6775. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, (Christopher) Luke Gilligan can be reached on (571) 272-6770. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. L. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 3626

/Robert Morgan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3626